

THE JAZZ PASSENGERS

Big Large: In Memory of Curtis Fowlkes — Press Clippings

BIG LARGE: IN MEMORY OF CURTIS FOWLKES (2024)

Released May 10, 2024 on Food Records LLC. The Jazz Passengers' first full-length album in seven years, recorded shortly before co-founder Curtis Fowlkes passed away in August 2023. Personnel: Curtis Fowlkes (trombone & vocals), Roy Nathanson (saxophones & vocals), Sam Bardfeld (violin), Bill Ware (vibraphone), E.J. Rodriguez (drums), Bradley Jones (bass), Gabe Nathanson (vocals & trumpet), Marc Ribot (guitar, selected tracks). Produced and engineered by Hugo Dwyer.

WALL STREET JOURNAL

“A graceful, moving reminder of [Curtis Fowlkes’] artistic personality — albums from a trumpeter and a trombonist, both of whom died in the past few years, serve as graceful, moving reminders of their artistic personalities.”

— **Larry Blumenfeld, The Wall Street Journal, May 6, 2024** — **“Musical Legacies”**

ALL ABOUT JAZZ

“Big Large: In Memory of Curtis Fowlkes named to Best of 2024 list.”

— **Ludovico Granvassu, All About Jazz, January 2025 (year-end list)**

FRUIT AND GROOVES COLLECTIVE

“Their first full-length statement in seven years ... imbued with all of the humor, drama, swing, groove, and chaos that have been hallmarks of their work from day one.”

— **Sam Wilkinson, Fruit and Grooves Collective, May 10, 2024**

GENERAL PRESS QUOTES

“If their goal is to make jazz music interesting and unpredictable, they’ve achieved it.”

— **Jade Blackmore, BlogCritics**

“It’s the musical equivalent of a Cubist painting, taking elements and rearranging them in unusual and sometimes grating juxtapositions.”

— **Jade Blackmore, BlogCritics**

“And therein lies the beauty of this band, where humor comes with a serious love for the music.”

— **Mike Shanley, JazzTimes**

“This magic can only exist when musicians enjoy a nearly indescribable intuition, coupled with the cohesiveness that comes with longevity.”

— **James McQuiston, NeuFutur.com**

“At its root, this jazz is fun and easy to love.”

— **Jen Hoyer, See Magazine**

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“Picking up where they left off, this vivacious studio session juxtaposes mellifluous crooning, adventurous post-bop and stylistic eclecticism with irrepressible charm and sophisticated humor.”

— **Troy Collins, All About Jazz**

“Jazz has always had satirists, but the members of New York’s Jazz Passengers are particularly adept at instilling whimsy into their performances, underscoring it with the sort of musicality that prevents the group from becoming a mere novelty.”

— **John Murph, Song of the Day**

“Reunited is a nugget of gold for jazz fans or for anyone who digs off beat joy in music.”

— **Will Layman, Pop Matters**

“Given that jazz can easily slip into the realm of the too serious, the return of the Jazz Passengers with their gonzo attitude and slightly off-kilter tunes is to be celebrated.”

— **David Kunian, Offbeat**

“Featuring the return of guitarist Marc Ribot and guest appearances by Elvis Costello and Deborah Harry, Reunited recalls the Jazz Passengers’ Knitting Factory-era heyday, when their insouciant blend of absurdity and virtuosity provided a ‘real’ jazz alternative.”

— **Troy Collins, All About Jazz**

“In the 1990s, Blondie’s Debbie Harry performed and recorded as part of the giddily unclassifiable, quasi-vaudevillian Jazz Passengers.”

— **nbcnewyork.com**

“A perverse mainstream... hard-bop group as imagined by Frank Zappa.”

— **Bob Blumenthal, Boston Globe, 1989**

STILL LIFE WITH TROUBLE — PRESS (2017)

DownBeat Magazine — 4.5 Stars — May 2017 — downbeat.com/digitaledition/2017/DB1705/single_page_view/56.html

The New York Times — Pop, Rock and Jazz in NYC This Week — March 24, 2017 — nytimes.com/2017/03/23/arts/music/pop-rock-and-jazz-in-nyc-this-week.html

The New Yorker — Goings On About Town — March 23, 2017 — newyorker.com/goings-on-about-town/night-life/the-jazz-passengers

WBGO Take Five — Nate Chinen Review — March 2017 — wbgo.org

New York City Jazz Record — March 2017 — jazzpassengers.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/NYCJazzRecord30.pdf

WNYC Gig Alert — Jazz Passengers at Roulette — March 27, 2017 — wnyc.org